

Senate Bill No. 885

Passed the Senate August 25, 2010

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly August 23, 2010

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2010, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Section 1749.5 of the Civil Code, relating to gift certificates.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 885, Corbett. Gift certificates: redemption.

Existing law provides that a gift certificate sold after January 1, 1997, is redeemable in cash or subject to replacement with a new gift certificate. Existing law also provides that a gift certificate with a cash value of less than \$10 may be redeemed in cash, as defined, for its cash value. Existing law prohibits the sale of a gift certificate that contains a dormancy fee, subject to specified exceptions.

This bill would delete those exceptions and expressly prohibit the sale of a gift certificate that contains a dormancy fee.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1749.5 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

1749.5. (a) It is unlawful for any person or entity to sell a gift certificate to a purchaser that contains any of the following:

(1) An expiration date.

(2) A service fee, including, but not limited to, a service fee for dormancy.

(b) (1) Any gift certificate sold after January 1, 1997, is redeemable in cash for its cash value, or subject to replacement with a new gift certificate at no cost to the purchaser or holder.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), any gift certificate with a cash value of less than ten dollars (\$10) is redeemable in cash for its cash value.

(c) A gift certificate sold without an expiration date is valid until redeemed or replaced.

(d) This section does not apply to any of the following gift certificates issued on or after January 1, 1998, provided the expiration date appears in capital letters in at least 10-point font on the front of the gift certificate:

(1) Gift certificates that are distributed by the issuer to a consumer pursuant to an awards, loyalty, or promotional program without any money or other thing of value being given in exchange for the gift certificate by the consumer.

(2) Gift certificates that are donated or sold below face value at a volume discount to employers or to nonprofit and charitable organizations for fundraising purposes if the expiration date on those gift certificates is not more than 30 days after the date of sale.

(3) Gift certificates that are issued for perishable food products.

(e) An issuer of gift certificates may accept funds from one or more contributors toward the purchase of a gift certificate intended to be a gift for a recipient, provided that each contributor is provided with a full refund of the amount that he or she paid toward the purchase of the gift certificate upon the occurrence of all of the following:

(1) The funds are contributed for the purpose of being redeemed by the recipient by purchasing a gift certificate.

(2) The time in which the recipient may redeem the funds by purchasing a gift certificate is clearly disclosed in writing to the contributors and the recipient.

(3) The recipient does not redeem the funds within the time described in paragraph (2).

(f) The changes made to this section by the act adding this subdivision shall apply only to gift certificates issued on or after January 1, 2004.

(g) For purposes of this section, “cash” includes, but is not limited to, currency or check. If accepted by both parties, an electronic funds transfer or an application of the balance to a subscriber’s wireless telecommunications account is permissible.

Approved _____, 2010

Governor